

# Memorandum

To : Dawn Casteel  
Abandoned Site Project  
Sacramento

Date : August 11, 1980

Subject: United Heckathorn

From : Ed Ochi  
Abandoned Site Project  
Berkeley

AR0034

SITE NAME: Parr-Richmond Terminal Company, formerly United Heckathorn & Chemwest Inc.  
CITY: Richmond  
COUNTY: Contra Costa  
COMPANY CONTACT: Rosemary McCormick, (415) 232-4422  
STAFF PERSON: Edward Ochi

PROBLEM: Possible soil contamination by various pesticides.

HISTORY: United Heckathorn/Chemwest Inc. processed and packaged various agricultural chemicals for use including DDT, Malathion, Phosdrin, and Dieldrin from approximately 1957 to 1967 (this ending date is still under question—contacts in the active company located on the site deny that the company even existed in the area). Both RWQCB and Fish and Game files indicate that the company was extremely messy—they were convicted twice of the illegal discharge of DDT wastes into the ship channel adjacent to the property.

A separate company located on the site prior to 1957 may have also contributed to the soil contamination problems on the site (if they exist). This company, the Universal Pigment and Chemical Company, had problems with acid waste spillage during the production of Napalm. Very little information is available on this company possibly because the operations of this company were considered defense related and therefor confidential (RWQCB report).

ASP ACTION TO DATE: Site was identified by original ASP Contra Costa group. "Drive-by" was made on May 1, 1980, at which time a security guard who had worked in the area since 1944 commented that United Heckathorn was indeed a sloppy operation and that you could "still smell the chemicals in the area that they used to occupy." In the past week Ms. Rosemary McCormick, Manager for the Parr-Richmond Terminal Company which currently occupies the area has been contacted several times to obtain permission for an on-site inspection. She says that she has worked in the area for the past 25 years and denies that United Heckathorn ever occupied the site. She claims that the occupied an area accross the street. This was denied by the owner of the lot in question across the street, and also does not match in with any information from the RWQCB or F & G. Ms. McCormick has agreed to a site inspection on 13 August 1980 at 10 AM by ASP personnel, but states that we're "confused".